Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/06/11 : CIA-RDP90-00845R000201040001-0

STAT

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE C 4

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH (MO)
30 January 1980

The CIA And 'Censoring'

As to your editorial titled, "Censorship Considered," on Dec. 26, 1979: First of all the Central Intelligence Agency has never admitted that Mr. Snepp's book contained no classified information. Snepp was taken to court for violating his secrecy agreement with this agency — an agreement determined by the court to be a binding and legal contract.

Second, the intransigence of Mr. Frank Snepp in violating the terms of the secrecy agreement he signed as an agency employee relates in no way to authors who have never taken such an oath — nor to freedom of the press.

I am chairman of the Publications Review Board, that body which reviews manuscripts to ascertain whether they contain legitimate classified material identified under existing statutes. We do not "clear" or "censor" manuscripts. It may interest you to know that in the past three years we have reviewed 198 manuscripts and disapproved only three for security reasons. The agency regulation which specifies the duties of the Publications Review Board states in part, "Approval will not be denied solely because the subject matter may be embarrassing to or critical of the agency."

Herbert E. Hetu
Director of Public Affairs
Central Intelligence Agency

Washington

STAT

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/06/11 : CIA-RDP90-00845R000201040001-0